

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition in the form of an inverse latex comprising:

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a) from 50% by weight to 80% by weight of at least one linear, branched or crosslinked organic polymer (P),

10 b) from 5% by weight to 10% by weight of an emulsifying system (S₁) of water-in-oil (W/O) type,

15 c) from 5% by weight to 45% by weight of at least one oil, and

d) from 0% to 5% by weight of water.

20 2. The composition as defined in claim 1, in which the polymer (P) is:

- either a homopolymer of a monomer chosen either from those having a partially or completely salified strong acid functional group or from those having a partially or completely salified weak acid functional group or from cationic monomers,

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35 - or a copolymer in which each of the monomers is chosen, independently of one another, either from those having a partially or completely salified strong acid functional group or from those having a partially or completely salified weak acid functional group or from neutral monomers or from cationic monomers,

- or a terpolymer in which each of the monomers is chosen, independently of one another, either from

those having a partially or completely salified strong acid functional group or from those having a partially or completely salified weak acid functional group or from neutral monomers or from cationic monomers,

- or a tetrapolymer in which each of the monomers is chosen, independently of one another, either from those having a partially or completely salified strong acid functional group or from those having a partially or completely salified weak acid functional group or from neutral monomers or from cationic monomers.

3. The composition as defined in either of claims 1 and 2, in which the polymer (P) is crosslinked with a diethylene or polyethylene compound in the molar proportion, expressed with respect to the monomers employed, of 0.005% to 1%, preferably of 0.01% to 0.2% and more particularly of 0.01% to 0.1%.

4. The composition as defined in claim 3, for which the crosslinking agent and/or the branching agent is chosen from ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, diethylene glycol diacrylate, sodium diallyloxyacetate, ethylene glycol diacrylate, diallylurea, triallylamine, trimethylolpropane triacrylate or methylenebis(acrylamide).

5. The composition as defined in one of claims 1 to 4, for which the monomer possessing a strong acid functional group which the polymer (P) comprises is partially or completely salified 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid.

6. The composition as defined in one of claims 1 to 5, for which the monomers possessing a weak acid functional group which the polymer (P) comprises are chosen from partially or completely salified acrylic

acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid or 3-methyl-3-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]butanoic acid.

7. The composition as defined in one of claims 1 to 6, for which the monomers possessing a weak acid functional group which the polymer (P) comprises are chosen from acrylamide, methacrylamide, diacetone acrylamide, dimethylacrylamide, N-isopropylacrylamide, N-[2-hydroxy-1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)ethyl]propenamide, 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl methacrylate, an ethoxylated derivative with a molecular weight of between 400 and 1000 of each of these esters, or vinylpyrrolidone.

8. The composition as defined in one of claims 1 to 7, for which the cationic monomers which the polymer (P) comprises are chosen from 2,N,N,N-tetramethyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]propanammonium, 2,N,N-trimethyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]propanammonium, N,N,N-trimethyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]ethanammonium, N,N,N-trimethyl-3-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)oxy]propanammonium, N,N,N-trimethyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]propanammonium or diallyldimethylammonium salts.

9. The composition as defined in one of claims 1 to 8, in which the polymer (P) is chosen from:

- crosslinked copolymers of acrylic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt or ammonium salt form, and of acrylamide;
- crosslinked copolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt form, and of acrylamide;
- crosslinked copolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid and of

acrylic acid, which are partially salified in the sodium salt form;

- 5 - crosslinked copolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt form, and of 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate;
- 10 - crosslinked copolymers of acrylamide and of N,N,N-trimethyl-3-(1-oxo-2-propenyl)propanammonium;
- 15 - crosslinked homopolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt form;
- 20 - crosslinked homopolymers of acrylic acid, partially salified in the ammonium salt or monoethanolamine salt form;
- 25 - terpolymers of acrylamide, of N,N,N-trimethyl-3-(1-oxo-2-propenyl)propanammonium and of [tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethyl]acrylamide;
- 30 - crosslinked terpolymers of acrylamide, of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propane-sulfonic acid and of acrylic acid, which are partially salified in the sodium salt form;
- 35 - terpolymers of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)-amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid, partially salified in the sodium salt form, of acrylamide and of vinylpyrrolidone.

10. The composition as defined in one of claims 1 to 9, comprising from 60% by weight to 70% by weight of polymer (P).

11. The composition as defined in one of claims 1 to 10, additionally comprising up to 5% of its weight

of an emulsifying system (S_2) of oil-in-water (O/W) type.

12. A process for the preparation of the composition
5 as defined above, characterized in that:

- 10 a) an aqueous phase (A) comprising the monomers and the optional hydrophilic additives is emulsified in an organic phase (O) comprising the surfactant system (S_1), a mixture composed of the oil intended to be present in the final composition and of a volatile oil, and the optional hydrophobic additives,
- 15 b) the polymerization reaction is initiated by introduction of an initiator of free radicals into the emulsion formed in a) and then the reaction is allowed to take place, and
- 20 c) the reaction medium resulting from stage b) is concentrated by distillation until said volatile oil has been completely removed.

13. The process as defined in claim 12, in which, on
25 conclusion of stage c), one or more emulsifying agents of oil-in-water type is/are introduced at a temperature of less than 50°C.

14. The use of the composition as defined in one of
30 claims 1 to 11 as thickener and/or emulsifier for a cosmetic, dermopharmaceutical or pharmaceutical topical composition.

15. The use of the composition as defined in one of
35 claims 1 to 11 as thickener for textile printing pastes.